THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) There is no separate target fixed for sugar exports to Indonesia during the current financial year.

(b) As per the information furnished by Indian Sugar and General Industry Export corporation, it has exported 1,31,273.95 MT of sugar to Indonesia during the period from April '96 to 31st Jan.'97.

(c) Does not arise.

Barriers on the Movement of Skilled Labourers

4010. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Indian services like software consultancy are losing their edge in the global market due to protective and non-tariff barriers imposed on the movement of skilled labours by North America and Europe;

(b) if so, whether Government have received any representations in this regard; if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of action initiated during 1996-97 proposed during 1997-98 to take up the issue with WTO to ensure meaningful balance in market area benefits in the service sector; and

(d) the details of the action taken/ proposed for redressal of the issue at multilateral, regional and bilateral forums, result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) Even though Indian software exports have grown at a rapid pace in the past, they do face protective and non-tariff barriers in developed countries specially United States of America by way of restrictive visa regulations; requirement of payment of salary equivalent to the salary paid to local employees requirement of payment of social security taxes etc. The Government is aware of these problems as a result of interaction with trade and industry and through their various communications.

(c) and (d) The negotiations on movement of natural persons in WTO were concluded on 28th July, 1995 with the approval of Council for Trade in Services to give it legal status in the form of "The Third Protocol to the General Agreement on Trade in Services" and "The Decision on the Movement of Natural Persons". The Council for Trade in Services has also established a Committee, known as "The Committee on Specific Commitments" to monitor the implementation of specific commitments, *inter alia*, related to movement of natural persons. However, the issue of providing greater market access to movement of "Natural Persons" is being raised in WTO, other multilateral and bilateral fora from time to time as appropriate.

खाद्य तेल के स्थान पर तिलहनों का आयात

4011. **श्री राम जेठमलानी:** क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान दिनांक 18 अप्रैल, 1997 के "दि आब्जर्वर" में "परमिट आयलसीड्स इम्पोर्ट आफ इंस्टेड एडिबल आयल एस ई ए" शीर्षक से प्रकाशित समाचार की ओर दिलाया गया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या यह सच है कि देश की "सालवेन्ट एक्सट्रेक्टर्स एसोसिएशन" ने यह मांग की है कि देश में खाद्य तेल के स्थान पर तिलहनों का आयात किया जाए;

(ग) यदि हां, तो क्या यह भी सच है कि देश में तेल निकालने की औद्योगिक क्षमता का 60 प्रतिशत अपर्युक्त पड़ा हुआ है; और

(घ) यदि नहीं, तो इस संबंध में सरकार का क्या आकलन है तथा खाद्य तेल के स्थान पर तिलहनों का आयात करने में क्या कठिनाइयां हैं?

वाणिज्य मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री बोल्ला बुल्ली रामैया): (क) जी, हां।